

REMARKS

Claim 40 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. The applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **July 21, 2004**.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 40-45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 40 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations found in claim 39, thereby making claim 40 an independent claim. With the placement of claim 40 in independent form, allowance of claims 40-45 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claim 39 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,783,702).

The present invention is a digital camera in which a thumbnail image may be generated and stored based upon an original captured image. This thumbnail image is generated based upon storing

every eighth line of the original image. The thumbnail image is stored to memory during a horizontal blanking period of the original captured image.

Sone et al. describes a solid state image sensing device (a camera). As shown in Fig. 2, during a vertical blanking period, signals which are charged at a photoelectric conversion device (1) in a period (14) are not to be used for video signals and are transferred to the vertical transferring means (2) by a first charge pulse (11). A vertical transferring means (2) transfers the unnecessary signal charges in the vertical transferring means (2) to the horizontal transferring means (3) within a period (13). Therefore, transferring of the unnecessary signal charges can be generated at a higher speed than normal speed.

Based on a careful review of the prior art, the applicant is unable to discover in Sone et al. any indication that a thumbnail image is stored to memory during a horizontal blanking period of the original captured image. A significant discussion is provided in Sone et al. concerning throwing away signals during a vertical blanking period but no discussion is provided concerning a horizontal blanking period. Therefore, the Examiner's grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed. The Examiner is requested to supply a specific reference in Sone et al. that would indicate that a thumbnail image is stored to memory during a horizontal blanking period of the original captured image. The applicant is convinced that such a discussion is not provided in Sone et al.

Therefore, claim 39 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A digital camera, comprising: an imaging device for imaging a subject and outputting first image data having a first resolution; a generator for generating second image data having a second resolution which is lower than the first resolution based

on the first image data outputted from said imaging device; and a writer for intermittently writing to a first memory the first image data outputted from said imaging device, and writing the second image data generated by said generator to said first memory at intervals of writing of the first image data, wherein said imaging device outputs the first image data in a raster scan manner, and said writer writes the second image data to said first memory during a horizontal blanking period of the first image data." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 39 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,783,702) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 40, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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